(b) if so, how many such high-rise buildings are there in the capital and out of which how many have been inspected and asked to conform to fire safety standards; and

(c) time by when the process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the records available with Delhi Fire Service, there are at present 767 High Rise Buildings in Delhi, of which 220 were constructed prior to the notification of Buildings Byelaws for Union Territory of Delhi in June, 1983. The 547 High Rise Buildings constructed after June, 1983 had obtained 'no objection certificate' from Delhi Fire Service as per the prescribed procedure before obtaining the Completion Certificate. Of the remaining 220 High Rise Buildings constructed prior to June, 1983,152 have also provided bare minimum safety facility prescribed under the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and Rules made thereunder.

Delhi Fire Service has in the last 4-5 months inspected 114 High Rise Buildings, including 68 buildings which do not conform to the minimum fire sefety standards.

(c) The time limit laid down by the High Court of Delhi for completion of this exercise is due to expire on 31st March, 2003.

Gearing up to make police force more friendly

1465. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has geared up to make force more people friendly;

(b) if so, the measures devised for the purpose; and

(c) the steps devised to control corruption within the force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi Police have launched an umbrella scheme for Community Policing which, apart from including the earlier schemes aimed at promoting the police-public interface, also incorporates new schemes like Organization of "Thana Diwas" at each Police Station; and "Samadhan" and "Chaupal" Schemes in Crime Prone Areas.

(c) The measures taken to control corrupt practices in Delhi Police include strengthening of the Vigilance branch of Delhi Police; setting up of a Public Grievances Cell in each District of Delhi Police; earmarking of Post Box No. 171 to enable the public to inform the Commissioner of Police about any criminal or corrupt activity of a police official; surprise checks by vigilance branch and other superior officers of Delhi Police; maintenance of close watch on police personnel with doubtful integrity; inculcation of a sense of humanity, service and respect of law through regular refresher courses; and frequent briefing by senior officers, etc.

Raising of all-women battalion in Tamil Nadu

1466. MISS MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government propose to raise all-women battalion in their police force, as reported in the *Indian Express* of 11th December, 2002;

(b) if so, details of the proposal;

(c) whether any other State has also raised this battalion; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in the face of unabated increase in violence against women, the steps taken by Government to strengthen women police force in the States to instill confidence among victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government to Tamil Nadu has informed that they have a proposal to raise an all-women battalion in their police force.